

PEST ALERT

Nevada Department of Agriculture
Plant Industry Division
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Emergency Federal Order Regarding Movement of Nursery Stock From Oregon, Washington and California

On December 21, 2004 the Animal Health Inspection Service of USDA issued an Emergency Federal Order (EFO) restricting the movement of nursery stock from California, Oregon, and Washington to prevent the spread of the plant disease *Phytophthora ramorum*, known as "sudden oak death" (SOD).

All nurseries that ship plants interstate from Oregon, Washington and California are affected by the order. Starting January 10, 2005 nurseries that grow or ship nursery stock listed as a host or associated host of SOD are prohibited from shipping any nursery stock out of their respective state until the nursery has been inspected, tested, and found free of SOD.

The EFO also prohibits nurseries that ship plants that are not known to be hosts or associated hosts from shipping out of their respective states, effective March 11, 2005, until the nursery has been inspected and found free of SOD symptoms.

The following Q & A may help to answer questions you or your customers may have about how this Emergency Federal Order may affect the availability of nursery stock entering Nevada.

1. Does this mean I can't get any nursery stock from California, Oregon, or Washington?

Commercial nurseries from these states will be able to ship once they have met the requirements of the emergency federal order. If they are shipping species listed as "hosts" or "associated hosts" of sudden oak death, they will have to be inspected, sampled, found free of SOD, and enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS and their state department of agriculture. All such shipments will be accompanied by a **federal** inspection certificate (citing CFR 301.92, the federal SOD quarantine).

If a nursery from one of the three states ships non-host plants, they must first be visually inspected for symptoms of SOD. If none are found, the nursery can be approved for shipping. They are not required to enter into a compliance agreement. These shipments (non-host species) must be accompanied by a standard inspection certificate from the state of origin; they will *not* be accompanied by a federal certificate.

The names of the inspected and approved nurseries will appear on a list of nurseries "approved" for interstate shipments. The lists will be posted on the origin state department of agriculture's website (see below).

2. How do I find out if a commercial nursery in California, Oregon or Washington has been inspected and is approved for shipping?

- Oregon: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/sod_free.pdf
- Washington State: <http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Diseases/SOD/default.htm>
- California: http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pe/sod_survey/

3. Where can I get a copy of the Emergency Federal Order?

On USDA's Sudden Oak Death website - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>

4. Does the EFO apply to all plants?

Yes. It applies to all commercial shipments of nursery stock. However, some nursery stock is exempt from both the emergency federal order and the SOD quarantine. The exempt plants include: seeds; sod or turf; bulbs, tubers, corms, or rhizomes (except for known host plants); greenhouse grown cactus; greenhouse grown orchids; greenhouse grown succulents; aquarium grown aquatic plants; greenhouse, container, or field grown palms; greenhouse, container, or field grown cycads; and tissue culture plants grown *in vitro*.

5. How do I know if a plant is considered to be a “host plant” or an “associated host plant” for sudden oak death?

A list of host and associated host plants is available online at USDA’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service’s website: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod.html or you can get a list from any office of the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

6. How can I protect my nursery or landscape plants from getting infested with sudden oak death?

First and foremost, purchase plants only from established, licensed commercial nurseries willing provide you with inspection certificates for each delivery. Make sure the shipping nursery is listed as “approved” for shipping as required by the Emergency Federal Order. Avoid buying stock from “jobbers” who have purchased a variety of plants from unknown growers and who cannot produce inspection certificates for all of the plants. If a supplier refuses to provide you with inspection certificates, or is vague about having the required inspections, do not purchase plants from them.

In your nursery or holding yard, segregate host and associated host plants and keep similar plants together. Whenever possible, place SOD hosts in the same location rather than scattering them throughout the nursery. In the event that you receive a suspect shipment, this will minimize the impact of quarantine actions that may need to be taken. Keep plants well-spaced to allow foliage to dry. Encourage employees to become familiar with the SOD host list, to recognize symptoms common to Sudden Oak Death and what to do if they suspect plants may be infested.

7. Can Sudden Oak Death be identified by looking at the symptoms?

Positive identification of SOD is possible only through a series of laboratory tests. Physical symptoms are similar to a variety of other diseases, including other *Phytophthora* species, environmental damage, etc. Plants with symptoms that look like SOD must be sampled and tested in the lab for positive identification.

8. Where can I find photographs of sudden oak death symptoms?

Photographs are available on USDA’s website. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>

9. Who do I call if I have questions about a shipment of plants or if I find damage that looks like SOD symptoms?

If your business is in Nevada, call the Nevada Department of Agriculture. If you are in the southern part of the state, call the Las Vegas office at (702) 486-4690. Businesses located in northern Nevada should call the Reno office at (775) 688-1182 X 243.

**A list of sudden oak death host plants & associated host plants
can be found at:**

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>